



CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

Community priorities

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

November 2003

Working for community priorities

Dear Fellow Arizonans:

Today, Americans share many challenges. Government deficits are at their highest levels in history. We are embroiled in a conflict in a foreign country where brave American men and women are under attack and in constant danger. We are faced with a medical crisis that leaves many of our parents and grandparents with the painful choice between buying food or paying for health care. We are reeling from the hardships associated with families who cannot find work. And, we continue to seek ways to improve our schools so that every child in Arizona is provided an education and offered the promise of higher learning.

But I remain hopeful for the people of Arizona's Fourth Congressional District and for all Americans. I have spent this year supporting efforts in Congress that would improve our community, some of which are outlined in the following pages. The people of our district have shown a cohesiveness and a spirit of community that proves we can weather the current storms and emerge stronger, with a greater sense of purpose.

I appreciate your dedication to making our neighborhood a better place to live, work, worship, and learn.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

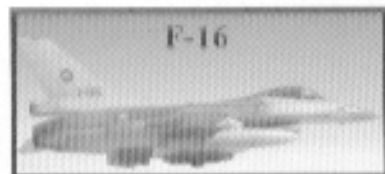


At a Garfield Neighborhood event in Phoenix, Congressman Ed Pastor recently met with community leaders and Phoenix police officials to discuss community policing. The Garfield neighborhood has benefited from the Weed and Seed neighborhood improvement program offered by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Congress acts to protect Luke

Congress this month handed Luke Air Force Base a valuable tool to combat upcoming Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) considerations, announced Rep. Ed Pastor.

In a recent action, Congress allocated \$14.3 million in Fiscal Year 2004 funds to assist in protecting the base's southern access to the Goldwater Range from encroachment. The Air Force will have authority to use those funds to purchase parcels of land, but because the majority of the properties along that route are agricultural, the money is likely to be primarily used to purchase development rights from willing property owners.



This is an important step as urban sprawl has eliminated use of Luke's northern corridor for planes carrying live ordnance. Loss of the remaining access route would be detrimental to Luke's mission as the largest fighter wing in the world, generating over 170 sorties daily.

As the sole site for active-duty, combat-ready F-16 pilot training, Luke benefits from the region's favorable climate - with few training days lost to weather conditions and easy access to the Goldwater Range, considered to be the nation's premier training range. However, if communities continue to expand into the aircrafts' safety zones, the base will no longer be a viable training location.

Pakistani community group expresses concerns

Congressman Ed Pastor met with members of the Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization, Inc., in Phoenix in October to discuss federal legislation affecting immigration, civil rights and related policies. From left to right are Azhar Raja, Asim Ameer, Pastor, Arif Kazmi, Hamid Khan and Javed Kaif.



CONSTITUENT SERVICES

How we can help

My staff and I are ready to assist you with problems you may encounter with federal agencies. Some of the areas in which we offer help are:

- ◆ Federal student loans
- ◆ Social Security and Medicare cases
- ◆ Immigration matters
- ◆ IRS problems
- ◆ Military service problems
- ◆ Service academy nominations
- ◆ Bill status and copies of legislation.



Visiting the Capitol

My offices can provide Gallery passes to see Congress at work or help with visits to other Washington landmarks.

U.S. Flags

My office is able to secure, at cost, U.S. flags which can be flown over the U.S. Capitol. Each flag comes with a certificate indicating the date on which it was flown.



Veterans Assistance

My office can help veterans in my district with their claims for VA pensions, disability benefits, VA hospitals, burial benefits, military records and medals.

Rio Salado project gets \$17 million

The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project received \$17 million in Fiscal Year 2004 funding in recently approved legislation, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. The funding amount is more than half of what is needed to complete the remaining construction.



The Rio Salado seeks to restore the dry riverbeds created in the 1900s when dams were built along the Salt and Verde rivers. Through a partnership between the city of Phoenix and the federal government, the project will rejuvenate the 582-acre desert river habitat and will feature multiple trails along terraced banks lined with trees and wetlands. While granting much

welcome aesthetic improvements, the project's design also features new recreation opportunities including hiking, jogging, biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and an educational visitor center. Not only will it serve recreational and educational interests, but it also will incorporate the practical features of improving flood management and enhancing Phoenix's economic development as new businesses seek to serve the area's visitors.

By revitalizing lost wetlands and natural vegetation, it is expected that this area will be critical to the survival of indigenous fish and wildlife.

Pastor working to find a breast cancer cure

Congressman Ed Pastor is working in Congress to draw attention to the need to find a cure for breast cancer.

"It is important to use my role as a Congressman to draw attention to significant breast cancer research programs and local initiatives fighting the disease," Pastor said.

Pastor is one of the cosponsors of H.R. 1385, a bill that would authorize the U.S. Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research. He also is cosponsor of H.R. 1746, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2003; and H.R. 1886, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2003.

RESOURCE

More information on breast cancer is available by contacting the:

National Cancer Institute's
Cancer Information Service
1-800-422-6237
www.cancer.gov



Salute to our veterans

Congressman Pastor discussed the importance of paying tribute to America's veterans with students from Project Challenge. They met during a Veteran's Day event in Phoenix outside the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Organization lauds Pastor for advancing rail

The Arizona Rail Passenger Association (ARPA) awarded Congressman Ed Pastor the 2003 Byron A. Nordberg Award, which is given to the public official who has done the most to advance passenger rail in the state of Arizona.

"Congressman Pastor was the first member of Arizona's Congressional delegation to recognize the important contribution that light rail will make to Phoenix area mobility," said Jay Smyth, president of the association. "The Congressman has worked tirelessly to obtain funding for each stage of this vital project."

ARPA is a volunteer group of concerned citizens working for better rail passenger service in the Desert Southwest.



Pastor discusses health

Congressman Ed Pastor met with Drs. Henry Saldaña and Jordon H. Perlow in Washington in October to discuss federal legislation affecting maternal and child health issues. Saldaña is director of the Arizona chapter of the March of Dimes. Perlow represents the Phoenix Perinatal Associates.

ASU College of Education honors Rep. Pastor

Fellow educators from Arizona State University recently recognized Rep. Pastor for his work in Congress by awarding him the College of Education's 2003 Distinguished Achievement Award.

Pastor, an ASU alumni and former high school chemistry teacher, was thanked for his outstanding service to ASU and his dedication to excellence in education, said Dean Eugene E. Garcia, Ph.D.

Pastor has made education one of his main priorities in his work as an elected official.



Mrs. Verma Pastor, representing Rep. Pastor, who had to remain in Washington, accepts the ASU College of Education's Distinguished Achievement Award from Dr. Sarah Hudelson. Rep. Pastor was acknowledged for his work in Congress to improve educational opportunities.

Latino groups recognize Pastor

Rep. Ed Pastor was recently recognized by two Latino organizations for his voting record.



The League of United Latin American Citizens gave Pastor their 2003 Community Service Award for his work in Congress to improve life for all Arizona citizens.

In addition, Pastor received a 94 percent mark on the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda's (NHLA) Congressional Scorecard.

The nonpartisan NHLA rates members of Congress on votes which affect the social, economic and political advancement and quality of life of Hispanic Americans.

Students meet military, federal reps

Students in the Fourth Congressional District met with representatives of the nation's five military and federal academies in October at Cesar Chavez High School in Phoenix at Congressman Pastor's Military/Federal Academy Day.

"Federal service and military academies provide excellent educational and career opportunities for our young people," Pastor said. "I want to encourage students to pursue these options. The more parents and educators know about the process of enrolling into the academies, the better guidance they can provide to students."

To attend one of the five service academies, students must be nominated by their U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator. Each year, Pastor nominates numerous students who live in his Congressional District to the service academies. Pastor represents the Fourth District, which consists of Phoenix from roughly 44th Street to 83rd Avenue and South Mountain to Bethany Home Road. The district also includes the town of Guadalupe and central Glendale.



Above, students from the Fourth Congressional District speak to representatives from the nation's military academies about admission requirements. Below, Naval Academy Midshipman 3rd Class Dawn Johnson met with Lawrence Reese, Congressman Pastor's aide who handles veteran and military issues. Johnson was a speaker at the presentation.



Congressman Pastor met with military and federal academy representatives to discuss the nomination of local students to the schools. Standing with Pastor, center, are West Point representatives Jeffery Cleveland, Capt. Reginald M. Dobson, Col. Jack Ruffing and Phoenix Union High School District Jr. ROTC Director Lt. Col. Michael Babb.



More information about applying for a nomination to a military or federal academy is available by contacting Lawrence Reese at 602-256-0551 or lawrence.reese@mail.house.gov.

Pastor's record noted by solar energy advocates

The U.S. Solar Energy Industries Association and the European Solar Thermal Industry Association on Oct. 31 gave Rep. Ed Pastor an award for his leadership in Congress in promoting solar thermal technologies.

"The role you have played in supporting sustainable and clean energy, particularly in the form of concentrating solar power, has been vital," wrote Glenn Hamer, executive director of the Solar

Energy Industries Association.

"It behooves us as Americans and global residents to advance the use of solar power in this country and include it as part of our national energy strategy," Pastor said. "I am honored to be acknowledged by this organization."



How to contact Congressman Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

Web Page: <http://www.house.gov/pastor>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 256-0551

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery. This can result in a delay of three weeks before delivery. Please feel free to send correspondence to my Phoenix District Office as an alternative method of contacting me. Thank you.

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